

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Optical fiber is drawn from a preform that is fed to a furnace at a constant down fed rate. The optical fiber is drawn by a tractor at a rate of at least 10 meters per second and the tractor is allowed to vary the draw speed of the fiber based on the fiber diameter as measured by a diameter monitor during the draw processing order to maintain a relatively constant fiber diameter. Maintaining the preform downfeed rate constant even at high draw rates in excess of 20 meters per second does not adversely effect the draw process and is believed to reduce or eliminate oscillations in the draw control loop that can cause variations in the core shape during fiber formation, resulting in reduced PMD and improved MFD uniformity.